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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10 040,600	12/28/2001	Himanshu Pokharna	42390.P12382	2675

8791 7590 04/21/2003

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EXAMINER

EDWARDS, ANTHONY Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2835

DATE MAILED: 04/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/040,600

Applicant(s)

POKHARNA ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony Q. Edwards

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 5, 13 and 21 are objected to because of the following informalities: The Examiner contends that "the external connector" of line 2, should read "an external connector."

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claims 1-4, 7-12, 15, 17-20, 23, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,275,945 to Tsuji et al. Referring to claims 1-4, 8-12, 17-20, Tsuji discloses an apparatus and method for using the apparatus, comprising a portable computer (1) and computer cooler (2) having a heat spreader in the computer (30) to transfer heat away from at least one component therein, and a cold plate in the cooler (31) to come into contact with the heat spreader to transfer heat from the heat spreader to the environment surrounding the computer cooler (see FIGS. 1-4 and the corresponding specification). Tsuji et al. also disclose a first connector (21) to mate to an external connector (16) of the portable computer system when the heat spreader is in contact with the cold plate, wherein the first connector passes signals of the external connector of the portable computer system to an internal device within the computer

cooler and also passes signals of the external connector of the portable computer system to an external device attached to the computer cooler. See FIG. 6A and the corresponding specification.

Referring to claims 7, 15 and 23, Tsuji et al. disclose an apparatus and method for using the same, further comprising a controller (52) to control the degree of transfer of heat from the cold plate to the environment surrounding the computer cooler. See column 7, lines 19-30.

Referring to claims 25 and 26, FIG. 9 and the corresponding specification of Tsuji et al. discloses cooling a portable computer comprising using a clock signal, wherein the clock signal is faster based on the required needs of the system, as well as enabling a feature (e.g., running programs) of the at least one component (e.g., the CPU) of the portable computer system that requires the use of the computer cooler to aid in transferring heat.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5, 13 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuji et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,463,396 to Nishigaki. As best understood by the Examiner, Tsuji et al. disclose the claimed apparatus and method for using the same, except for a second connector that replicates another external connector of the portable computer system, wherein an

external device is attached to the computer cooler through the second connector to pass signals of the external connector of the portable computer system to the external device. Nishigaki discloses an apparatus for controlling internal heat generating circuit comprising a second connector (28) on the cooler (2) for connection various expansion devices to the cooler. See column 13, lines 24-31. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the cooling apparatus and method of using the same of Tsuji et al. to include a second connection, as taught by Nishigaki, to provide additional connection to peripheral devices.

Claims 6, 14, 16, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuji et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,378 to Olson et al. Referring to claims 6, 14, and 22, Tsuji et al. disclose the claimed apparatus and method for using the same, except for the cooling system having a compressor, an evaporator, a condenser and a refrigerant. Olson et al. disclose a portable computer (110) with docking station (112), utilizing refrigerative cooling, provided by a compressor (816) and refrigerant filled coil (814). Although Olson et al. does not expressly disclose an evaporator and condenser, such elements are well known and conventional in refrigerative cooling systems. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the cooling apparatus and method of using the same of Tsuji et al. to include refrigerative cooling, as taught by Olson et al., as an alternate means of cooling a portable computer in a docking station.

Referring to claims 16 and 24, Tsuji et al. disclose the claimed apparatus and method for using the same, except for the cooling system having a heat pipe to transfer heat away from the at least one component within the portable computer system to the heat spreader. Olson

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discloses an embodiment utilizing heat pipes position proximate the CPU of the portable computer to transfer heat to the docking station. See column 2, lines 2-6. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the cooling apparatus and method of using the same of Tsuji et al. to include a heat pipe, as taught by Olson et al., to transfer heat away from at least one component in portable computer to a docking station heat spreader.

Conclusion


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 5,969,939 to Moss et al. discloses a computer with docking station for generic cooling purposes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony Q. Edwards whose telephone number is 703-605-4214. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30-3:00) First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Darren Schuberg can be reached on (703) 308-4815. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 306-5511 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-9929.

aqc
April 18, 2003


DARREN SCHUBERG
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